

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 SCCT-01 /079 W

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R 101310Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 792

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 004

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: SECSTATE REES RESUMES TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVES

POLITICAL PARTIES

1. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO NORTHERN IRELAND FROM LONDON JAN. 9 SECRETARY OF STATE MERLYN REES RESUMED DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES RECOGNIZED ULSTER POLITICAL GROUPS. IT BELIEVED THESE MEETINGS DESIGNED IN PART STRESS CONTINUED BELIEF PART HMG THAT ELECTED ULSTER POLITICIANS PRIMARY POINTS LIAISON WITH ULSTER PEOPLE. JAN. 9 REES MET WITH OFFICIAL UNIONIST DELEGATION HEADED BY HARRY WEST AND WITH ALLIANCE PARTY GROUP HEADED BY OLIVER NAPIER. WEST IN RADIO INTERVIEW SAID IT WAS "MOST USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE MEETING WITH SECSTATE." REES REPORTEDLY REASSURED BOTH GROUPS THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO DIRECT OR INDIRECT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN HMG AND PROVISIONAL IRA. REES ALSO SAID CONVENTION ELECTIONS WOULD GO FORWARD. OFFICIAL UNIONISTS BELIEVE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH. ALLIANCE GROUP CALLED FOR RELEASE ALL DETAINEES IF PRESENT CEASEFIRE MAINTAINED. IT UNDERSTOOD REES PERSISTENT IN DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN WHAT POSSIBLE IN TEMPORARY CEASEFIRE SITUATION WITH WHAT POSSIBLE GIVEN GENUINE "CESSATION" VIOLENCE.

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2. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS (A) RUMORS GROWING THAT GOVERNMENT INTENDS RELEASE 30-50 INTERNEES BEFORE EXPIRATION CEASE FIRE JAN. 16 BUT WITHOUT ANNOUNCING CONNECTION BETWEEN RELEASES AND IRA CEASEFIRE CONDITIONS. (B) UNATTRIBUTED NEWS REPORTS STATE IF CEASEFIRE TO BE PROLONGED PROVISIONAL IRA MUST HAVE INDICATION BRITISH INTENTIONS BEFORE MONDAY JAN. 13 ORDER GIVE IRA STAFF TIME STUDY SITUATION. (C) DEMOCRATIC UNIONISTS (PAISLEY) HAVE REQUESTED ANOTHER MEETING WITH SECSTATE AND DEMANDED EARLY CONVENTION ELECTIONS (D) VANGUARD UNIONISTS HAVE PROPOSED PLAN TERMED "APARTHEID SYSTEM" TO CONFINE IRA MEMBERS EXPELLED FROM U.K. TO CERTAIN "NO STRAY" AREAS IN ORDER PREVENT ULSTER BECOMING "SIX COUNTY DETENTION CENTER," (E) WEST BELFAST BRIGADE ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA, LYTTLE AND HARDING-SMITH) BROKE FROM INNER COUNCIL UDA EARLY IN WEEK IN PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES AND POLICY DISPUTE OVER APPROACH TO CEASEFIRE. WEST BELFAST BRIGADE WHICH MORE SYMPATHETIC TO CLERGY INITIATIVES IN SEEKING CEASEFIRE HAS DECLARED ITSELF OFFICIAL UDA. MID ULSTER BRIGADE (450 MEMBERS) SUBSEQUENTLY DECLARED ITSELF INDEPENDENT OF UDA INNER COUNCIL. (F) OFFICIAL UNIONIST M.P. ENOCH POWELL MADE MAJOR POLICY SPEECH JAN. 10 TO PARTY MEMBERS IN WHICH HE ESTABLISHED FRAMEWORK FOR SYSTEM STABLE GOVERNMENT ULSTER (AIRGRAM FOLLOWS). HE SAID INTER ALIA THAT: "THE MAJORITY CAN DENY TO A MINORITY A CLAIM OF SPECIAL RIGHTS: IT CANNOT DENY TO A MINORITY THE CLAIM TO HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AND TREATMENT AS THE REST."

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